

NSC BRIEFING

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YUGOSLAV-SOVIET RELATIONS (short)

- I. Bloc boycott of Yugoslav party congress and recent Soviet condemnation of Yugoslav party program are extremely serious blow to Yugoslav-Soviet relations.
 - A. All bloc countries followed Moscow's lead and withdrew their official delegations.
 - B. Likewise, bloc members ^{except Poland,} are supporting Moscow's strong rebuttal of Yugoslav program. ^{Poland recognized Yugoslav's right to follow its own road to socialism although it agreed with Moscow on some points.}
 - C. In lieu of delegations bloc assigned ambassadors to the congress as observers.
 1. ~~With exception of Polish ambassador, their refusal to return to hall following a break highlighted boycott.~~
- II. On 18 April, Soviet journal Kommunist ^{had} condemned as non-Marxist virtually every principle of Yugoslav ideology.
 - A. Kommunist stated that unless these non-Marxist views were dropped there is no hope for any future role for Yugoslavia in bloc.
- III. While Tito seriously concerned over dispute, there is little likelihood that he will knuckle under since concessions on main issues would represent abandonment of Yugoslav road to socialism.
 - A. Aware of Soviet intentions to boycott congress, Belgrade on 17 April announced changes in its draft.
 1. These concessions were minor and were not on basic ideology.
 2. Yugoslav ambassador in Moscow met with Khrushchev on changes but nothing came of it.
 - B. Tito in speech at the congress merely confirmed Yugoslav road to socialism.